

Please add the following:

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--Claim 5. Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the nozzle seals against the inner wall of the pipe-shaped outlet opening.

Claim 6. Apparatus in accordance with claim 2, wherein the blade is lockable in an end position, wherein a hose bag is cut open.--

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to correct a typographical error in page 3, where the pipe-shaped outlet opening (3) was erroneously referred to as "(2)".

The claims are also amended to provide for improved syntax, and to provide for multiple dependency.

For the record, Applicants emphasize that although the claims were amended, and, therefore, might be argued to have been amended for a reason substantially related to patentability, a fair reading of the amended claims will reveal that the departures from the previous claims were for clarification purposes only, and that Applicants did not narrow the claims in any material respect. Therefore, Applicants submit that the amended claims are entitled to the full range of equivalents.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

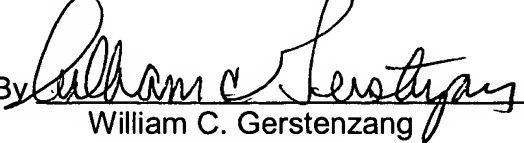
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ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No.
14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,

NORRIS, McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By: 
William C. Gerstenzang
Reg. No. 27,552

220 East 42nd Street - 30th Floor
New York, New York 10017
(212) 808-0700

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APPLICATION, The Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.
20231 on January 23, 2002

Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A.

By: 

Date: 1/23/02

**MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED PARAGRAPH,
SHOWING CHANGES RELATIVE TO PREVIOUS VERSION**

Page 3, last paragraph:

The cap-like mating part 2 has a pipe-shaped outlet opening [2] 3, in which a double-edged blade 4 with an adjacent helix-shaped cutting blade curve is arranged by means of a removable transport safety 10. The blade is rotatably mounted in the pipe-shaped outlet opening 3 by means of an insertable nozzle 5.

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**MARKED-UP COPIES OF AMENDED CLAIMS,
SHOWING CHANGES RELATIVE TO PREVIOUS VERSION**

Claim 1 (amended). Apparatus for emptying a hose bag [(1)] comprising a cap-like mating part [(2)] fixed on one end [of the hose bag (1)] thereof, which has a pipe-shaped outlet opening (3) and a [device] helical cutting device arranged therein for opening the hose bag [, characterized in that the device is a helical cutting blade (4)].

Claim 2 (amended). Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the blade [(4) can be] is rotatably [displaced] displacable into the outlet opening [(3)] and in the hose bag direction [by means of] through an insertable nozzle [(5)].

Claim 3 (amended). Apparatus in accordance with claims 1 [and 2], [characterized in that] wherein the blade [(4) can be locked] is lockable in an end position, wherein a hose bag [(1)] is cut open.

Claim 4 (amended). Apparatus according to [one of the claims 2 to 3, characterized in that] claim 2, wherein the nozzle [(5)] seals against the inner wall of the pipe-shaped outlet opening [(3)].